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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 27, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Compassionate and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As this House comes together at the end of the week, bless the work of its Members.

Give them strength, fortitude, and patience. Fill their hearts with charity, their minds with understanding, their wills with courage to do the right thing for all of America.

In the work to be done before the end of this session, may they rise together to accomplish what is best for our great Nation and, indeed, for all the world, for You have blessed us with many graces and given us the responsibility of being a light shining on a hill.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

JOBS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week the President adopted a new campaign slogan, "We Can't Wait," in efforts to get his \$447 billion jobs bill passed by Congress even after the Senate has rejected it already, two or three times.

The President continues to promote his more-of-the-same failed policies like higher taxes and increased spending, and we can't wait for the President to get behind policies that will help the American people.

Families and small business across the country continue to struggle in this economy, and that's why Republicans have passed bill after bill to get our economy moving in the right direction.

Today, the House will vote on repealing the IRS' 3 percent withholding rule in order to reduce uncertainty for our businesses and allow job creators to do what they do best, create jobs.

I urge the President and my colleagues in the Senate to follow our

lead, get our economy moving forward. Americans want, need, and deserve no less.

STUDENT LOANS

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, for Americans who are disgusted with the obstructionism of the Republican-controlled House, yesterday President Obama cut through the morass, issuing new rules for student loan assistance, implementing a law that was passed by the last Congress, the Democratic-controlled Congress, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act.

This program will allow millions of Americans to consolidate their student loans, lower their interest rates, and will also cap loan payments again for millions of Americans. Anyone listening can go to studentaid.ed.gov/ibr to find out the new rules of eligibility which, again, will save thousands of dollars for people who are drowning in student loan costs.

Rather than trying to build on that accomplishment, this Congress passed a Ryan budget which would butcher the Pell Grant program and do nothing for people who are racking up huge amounts of student loans.

As a Member of Congress from the University of Connecticut's district—go Huskies—thank you, Mr. President. Congratulations on moving forward to address the real needs of America's middle class.

JOB CREATION

(Ms. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, last month Paul Manahan from Mahopac, New York, sent the following letter to me:

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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"We don't need or want more government spending. Cut regulation, cut taxes, repeal the 2010 health care law, and let business do what it does best: Create jobs based upon demand, not government dictates, spending, and attempts at market manipulation."

Well, Mr. Manahan, you're absolutely right and, in fact, our House majority has passed at least 15 bills that now lie dormant in our Senate because the Senate refuses to take action on what would actually create American jobs, lift regulations, create new environments and new opportunities.

We are working nonstop in the House majority for all of our American citizens and you, Mr. Manahan, to make sure that you have the opportunity that you deserve and the prosperity that you need.

Please urge your Senator and all senators across the country to free those 15 bills and get this economy going.

WHITE HOUSE SIGNING OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Mr. MICHAUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of the American people the fact that last Friday the President signed the implementing legislation for Colombia, Panama, and Korea free trade agreements.

My colleagues and the American people might have missed it, because that's what the President wanted. The American people don't support more flawed trade agreements, so the President signed them into law quietly.

The White House issued no press releases or statements. No photos were taken, no signing pens were publicly handed out.

If these jobs are the job creators the President promised us that they would be, then why wouldn't we have a public ceremony highlighting the signing of the FTAs? It's because these FTAs aren't going to create American jobs. They might create jobs in Korea and China, but they won't create them here at home.

If I were the President, I'd want to keep these agreements quiet too.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Prayer Caucus to note the importance of faith in our Nation's history. In his first inaugural address in 1789, George Washington said in part:

"It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the

Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

OVERSIGHT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH SPENDING

(Mr. BARROW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in improving congressional oversight of Federal spending by cosponsoring H.R. 3121, the Reclaiming Oversight of the Executive Branch Spending Act.

Too often Congress appropriates vast amounts of money within broad funding categories and gives the executive branch the freedom to spend it with little oversight. The constitutional obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely lies with Congress. My legislation would require that all Federal spending and loan guarantees over \$100 million be explicitly approved by Congress.

Had my bill been law a year ago, Congress would have had to approve the \$500 million loan guarantee to the now bankrupt Solyndra and perhaps we could have stopped that from happening. Today, however, the only real vetting of programs like the Solyndra loan happens after things have gone wrong and the money has been lost.

Congress needs to reassert itself and ensure that all programs are properly vetted. The old carpenter's rule still applies: measure twice, cut once.

I ask all of my colleagues to help me end wasteful spending by cosponsoring the Reclaiming Oversight of the Executive Branch Act.

□ 0910

TRIBUTE TO HARRY H. BASORE

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the service of Arkansas native and Navy Captain Harry Harrison Basore, Jr., of Leawood, Kansas, who died August 2, 2011, at the age of 95, and who will be buried tomorrow in Arlington National Cemetery.

A distinguished naval aviator, Captain Basore commanded Fighter Squadron 74 off the "jeep" carrier USS *Kasaan Bay*, in support of Allied forces during their fight against Germany in southern France in August 1944. He was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism during low-level reconnaissance missions over enemy concentrations.

Like most of America's Greatest Generation, Captain Basore returned home following the war, became president of a prominent sheet metal firm,

was an active volunteer of the Leawood Fire Department, and chairman of the board of trustees of his alma mater, College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri.

Preceded in death by his wife, Shirley, to whom he was married 70 years, Captain Basore will always be remembered by his family and friends for his courage, leadership, and selfless service to his country—and his fellow man.

JOBS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, far too many Americans hurt today. They hurt because of unfair tax policy. They've witnessed, as more and more reports are issued, that the top income stratum has seen its income grow by 275 percent, while those of more modest means have seen a growth of perhaps 15 to 20 percent, and far too many have seen no growth with a flat outcome. They also witnessed no meaningful jobs agenda coming from this House over the last 10 months. Throughout the course of the first session of the 112th Congress, they are waiting for a jobs agenda.

So, Madam Speaker, as the House drags its feet, America struggles. Many struggle to find a job. Many struggle to keep a job. Many struggle to make ends meet. Many struggle to make student loan payments. Many struggle to pay those mortgages. We need to go forward with a progressive agenda that responds to strengthening the middle class, strengthening the purchasing power of the middle class. Without a strong middle class, there's not a strong America.

"COME AND TAKE IT"

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the Texas War of Independence, the enemy tried to remove a cannon from the town of Gonzales. The defiant Texans flew a flag which stated "Come and Take It."

Now, in Montana, an intolerant radical anti-religious group wants a statue of Jesus taken down from a mountain. The Forest Service is under pressure not to renew a lease for the 58-year-old statue. The statue is more than a religious symbol. It was erected as a memorial and a tribute to Montana freedom fighters during World War II for their bravery, dedication, and patriotism.

What's next? Is the anti-religious crowd going to demand the government chisel off the crosses, the Stars of David, and other religious symbols on the tombstones of our war dead at Arlington Cemetery? The Constitution protects free speech and freedom of religion. As those early Texas settlers